

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0656

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: MEETING OF U.S.-MEXICO COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS

REF: STATE 140537 AND STATE 132157

SUMMARY: GOM FINDS JUNE 17-18 DATES TOO CLOSE TO PERMIT
EFFECTIVE MEETING AND SUGGESTS DEFERRAL. GOM REQUESTS THAT
NEW DATES PROPOSED NOT FALL ON WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY SOUNDED OUT GOM AT LEVEL OF FOREIGN RELATIONS
UNDER SECRETARY ON PROPOSED DATE AND PLACE FOR THIS MEET-
2. AFTER INTERAGENCY CONSULTATION, GOM HAS ACCEPTED MEXICO
CITY AS THE MEETING SITE BUT REQUESTS DEFERRAL OF THE DATE.
GOM EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN RELATIONS, ACTING THROUGH SEC-
RETARIAT OF GOVERNMENT, HAD REQUESTED CONGRESS TO DESIGNATE
DELEGATES TO THE SUBGROUP ON NARCOTICS. CONGRESS HAS NOT
RESPONDED. LEADERSHIP NOW INVOLVED IN U.S.-MEXICAN INTER-
PARLIAMENTARY MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND NOT EXPECTED RETURN
BEFORE JUNE 12. AS RESULT, JUNE 17-18 DATES ARE TOO CLOSE
TO PERMIT ARRANGEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE MEETING. GOM ALSO OB-
SERVES THAT MEETING ON THESE DATES WOULD FOLLOW HARD ON
HEELS OF BILATERAL INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING WITH NARCOT-

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ICS CONTROL ON THE AGENDA. ACCORDINGLY, GOM REQUESTS THAT
MEETING BE DEFERRED TO LATER DATE.

3. GOM ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO FACT THAT PROPOSED DATES
JUNE 17-18 ARE A SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, NOTING THAT WEEKEND
VISIT GIVES MEETING AN UNDESIRABLE "JUNKET" IMAGE AND SER-
IOUSLY COMPLICATES GOM EFFORTS TO ARRANGE A MEANINGFUL

VISIT, PARTICULARLY THE INCLUSION OF ALL-IMPORTANT FIELD VISITS TO NARCOTICS GROWING AREAS. AS A RESULT, GOM REQUESTS THAT REVISED DATES NOT FALL ON WEEKEND.

4. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS GOM RESISTANCE TO WEEKEND PROGRAMMING FOR REASONS GIVEN BY GOM, AS WELL AS FACT THAT WEEKEND SCHEDULING IS BOTH VERY UNFLATTERING AND BURDENSOME FOR OUR MEXICAN HOSTS.

5. PER STATE 132157, ASSUME WE SHOULD NOW SEEK MEETING DATE IN LATE JULY OR LATTER HALF AUGUST. EMBASSY STRONGLY PREFERS LATE JULY. IF DEPARTMENT WILL PROPOSE DATES WE SHALL CONSULT AGAIN. LUCEY

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